



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING



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SUPERINTENDENT OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

November 9, 2006

MEMORANDUM

TO: Local and Intermediate School District Superintendents and Public School Academy Directors

FROM: Mike Flanagan, Superintendent of Public Instruction

SUBJECT: State Board of Education Model Anti-Bullying Policy

At its September 12, 2006 meeting, the State Board of Education approved the Model Anti-Bullying Policy to assist local and intermediate school districts and public school academies in implementing their own policies.

The State Board of Education felt it important to address the issue of bullying in the school environment for numerous reasons:

- Recent research suggests that the impact of bullying on victims is profound and can last late into adult life;
- Detrimental methods of coping can include school absenteeism; avoidance of extra-curricular and social activities; feelings of shame, inadequacy, humiliation, and depression;
- At its worst, bullying can lead to school dropout, violence, and suicide; and,
- For many bullies whose behavior remains unchecked, the future holds a possibility of escalating intimidation, which can lead to abuse, violence, criminal behavior, and imprisonment.

The State Board of Education's Model Anti-Bullying Policy highlights strategies which, if effectively employed, can prevent or intervene in bullying behavior, change the perpetrator's behavior into more socially-adaptive approaches to peers, or repair the harm caused by bullying. This policy may be viewed on the Department's website at:

http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/SBE_Model_AntiBullying_Policy_Revised_9.8_172355_7.pdf.

Questions or concerns regarding this policy may be directed to Bob Higgins, Safe Schools Consultant, Michigan Department of Education, by phone at 517-373-1024 or via email at higginsr@michigan.gov.

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